

**Montana District Office**  
**District Director**  
**Michelle Johnston**



Michelle Johnston is District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Montana District Office located in Helena. Appointed in December of 2001, Ms. Johnston is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs throughout Montana. These programs include the administration of the total SBA business loan portfolio of over 2300 loans and more than \$322 million dollars, oversight of ten Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), eight Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) chapters and two Women's Business Centers.

Ms. Johnston serves on the Helena YWCA Board and is a member of Women's Leadership Network (WLN.) She is a past board member of Career Training Institute (Women's Business Center), past President of Business and Professional Women and a Past State Business Chair and serves on the Combined Federal Campaign Committee.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Johnston served as Acting District Director. She began her federal career in 1974, moving to SBA in 1987. She was named Chief, Entrepreneurial Development in 1995. Johnston is no stranger to small business, as she and her husband have owned and operated their own small business for many years. They started their auto body shop business in 1976, received an SBA guaranteed loan to purchase the real estate in 1979, and today have grown it into a profitable and successful enterprise. Both Johnston and her husband are Montana natives and have two adult children, Heather and Travis.

In 2003, the Montana District Office ended the year as #1 in the nation (out of 70 district offices), reaching and surpassing all goals which included lending, counseling and training, and government contracting.